

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph beginning at page 1, line 8 is amended as follows:

The present application is related to the co-filed, co-pending, and co-assigned application entitled "Hierarchical Semiconductor Structure Design," U.S. Serial No. 09/031,398, filed February 26, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,449,757, which is hereby incorporated by reference.